

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CAB-09 DODE-00

DOTE-00 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /153 W

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P R 071130Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0457

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS LISBON 3835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN PO

SUBJ: STRIKE AGAINST FOREIGN AIRLINES ENDS

REF: LISBON 3825

1. STRIKE AGAINST FOREIGN AIRLINES ENDED AT MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 6.
TERMINATION OF WALKOUT ACHIEVED BY MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS,
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WHO JAW-BONED MOST OF DAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH CARRIERS
(RENA) AND WORKERS.

2. IN THE END WORKERS AGREED BASICALLY TO RENA PROPOSAL MADE SEPTEMBER 5; I.E., IN EXCHANGE FOR A NO-STRIKE PLEDGE DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE NEW CONTRACT (OLD CONTRACT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1974), THE CARRIERS WOULD AGREE TO INDEMNIFY ANY WORKERS DISMISSED WITHOUT JUST CAUSE DURING THAT PERIOD ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW RATHER THAN THE EXISTING CONTRACT (SEE PARA 3 OF REFTEL). THE MINISTER OF LABOR, HOWEVER, IN HIS RULING (DESPACHO) ON THE MATTER, ISSUED LATE SEPTEMBER 6, STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW CONTRACT MUST BE TERMINATED BY NOVEMBER 15, 1974. UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN STRUNG OUT UNTIL MAY 1975, EVEN THOUGH THE NEW CONTRACT WOULD HAVE BEEN RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1.

3. CONDITIONS AT THE AIRPORT AS OF NOON SEPTEMBER 7 WERE GETTING BACK TO NORMAL ALTHOUGH STILL CONGESTED AS RESULT OF TIE-UP ALL DAY SEPTEMBER 6.

4. COMMENT: THE KEY TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE STRIKE WAS APPARENTLY THE SHORTENING OF THE PERIOD PERMITTED FOR NEGOTIATION OF THE NEW CONTRACT. THIS MEANS THAT THE CARRIERS WILL HAVE A CONSIDERABLY SHORTER GUARANTEED NO-STRIKE PERIOD THAN THEY WOULD HAVE HAD UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. WITHOUT THE NOVEMBER 15 CUT-OFF DATE A NO-STRIKE-DURING-NEGOTIATIONS PLEDGE COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE WORKERS NOT TO STRIKE UNTIL AS LATE AS MAY 1975. BY ACCEPTING THE NOVEMBER 15 DEADLINE, RENA GAVE UP SOMETHING WHICH THE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES COULD POINT TO AS A FACE-SAVING CONCESSION.
SCOTT

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